

Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAJ-01 IO-10 OPIC-03 NIC-01 /079 W
----- 096468

R 031725Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2361
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON 1882

1. CAMPAIGN OPENS:

FIRST DAY OF OFFICIAL ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNING TOOK PLACE UNEVENT-FULLY, WITH OCCASION MARKED BY A SURGE OF POSTERS AND PAINTED SLOGANS ON LISBON'S ALREADY WELL COVERED WALLS, STREET LAMPS, AND SIDEWALKS, ALL LISBON NEWSPAPERS PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED PHOTOGRAPHS OF VARIOUS PARTIES' MILITANTS BUSILY ATTACHING PROPAGANDA IN PUBLIC PLACES. RADIO AND TV CARRIED PARTY ANNOUNCE-
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MENTS ACCORDING TO SCHEDULES, FIXED BY THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL

COMMITTEE.

2. PARTY ACTIVITIES:

(A) PCP- AT MASS RALLY IN DOWNTOWN LISBON COMMUNIST PARTY SECRETARY-GENERAL CUNHAL REFERRED TO "CERTAIN PERSONS" AFTER APRIL 25 WHO, THINING THEY HAD ALL THE ANSWERS IN THEIR POCKETS, IMMEDIATELY BEGAN SPEAKING IN TERMS OF BOURGEOIS DEMOCRACY. BUT THE PEOPLE KNEW THAT EXPLOITATION OF THE WORKING CLASS CONTINUES IN BOURGEOIS DEMOCRACIES, SO THEY HAVE HAD OTHER IDEAS.

(B) MDP-CDE-FOUR STREETCARS RENTED BY PARTY CIRCULATED FOR 16 HOURS THROUGH DOWNTOWN LISBON STREETS, PROVIDING MOBILE PLATFORM FROM WHICH LOUD-SPEAKERS BALRED AND PAMPHLETS SHOWERED.

(C) PS-SOCIALIST LEADER MARIO SOARES, SPEAKING AT RALLY IN PORTALEGRE, ASKED: "WHEN CERTAIN PARTIES OR GROUPS SAY THAT THE CDS, OR PPD, OR PDC, OR PS ARE RIGHTIST PARTIES, WE MUST ASK OURSELVES, IS IT TO BE ONLY THE COMMUNIST PARTY THAT CAN BE THE PART OF THE LEFT?"

(D) PPD- PARTY LEADER MAGALHAES MOTA ADDRESSED RALLY IN TORRES VEDRAS AT WHICH HE CONDEMNED ELITIST ATTITUDES IN PORTUGUESE SOCIETY, CITING MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS AND BUREAUCRATS STUFFED WITH PRIDE IN THEIR POSITIONS, PROFESSORS CONVINCED OF THEIR OWN GENIUS, BOSSSES MORE CONRNED WITH THEIR PROPERTY THAN WITH PRODUCTION, REPORTERS AND WRITERS SELF-PROMOTED TO CATEGORY OF "INTELLECTUAL WORKERS." IT, THEREFORE, IS NOT SURPRISING THAT, AFTER APRIL 25, THOSE PREVIOUSLY OPPORESED HAVE ASSUMED ROLES OF OPPRESSORS OR, AT MINIMUM, HAVE TAKEN ON DOMINEERING ATTITUDES.

(E) CDS-NO PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD. CDS COIMBRA, OFFICE IN A VACANT BUILDING WAS SEARCHED BY POLICE, SUSPICIOUS THAT OPERATION BELONGED TO A CLANDESTINE OPERATION. CDS OFFICIALS RECOVERED OFFICE EQUIPMENT REMOVED BY POLICE AFTER CALLING IN PERSON AT POLICE STATION.

3. MRPP DEMONSTRATES IN OPORTO; ARRESTS MADE:

RALLY CALLED BY OUTLAWED MRPP EVENING APRIL 2 IN OPORTO WAS RELATIVELY TRANQUIL AFFAIR. SOME 350 DEMONSTRATORS SHOWED UP, MARCHING TO PRISON WHERE MRPP SOLDIER STILL DETAINED. TROOPS WERE ON SCENE. AFTER SOME SCUFFLING, TEN ARRESTS WERE MADE, FIVE BEING MRPP SOLDIERS. IN MEANTIME, MRPP ANNOUNCED THAT SEVEN OF ITS MILITANTS WERE ARRESTED IN LISBON AREA, TWO IN CONNECTION WITH ANTI-MILITARY SLOGAN PAINTING AND FIVE INVOLVED WITH THE OCCUPATION

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OF AN ABANDONED HOUSE.

4. ELECTORAL COMMISSION EXHORTS PUBLIC:

PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION OPENED FORMAL CAMPAIGN PERIOD WITH TV APPEAL FOR ALL PORTUGUESE CITIZENS TO STUDY AND THINK OVER TWELVE POLITICAL PARTY CHOICES SO AS TO BE ABLE TO VOTE WISELY AND DELIBERATELY.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE LIMITED ROLE OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY,
PARTIES ARE CAMPAIGNING WITH GUSTO AND SERIOUSNESS. ALTHOUGH
PARTIES KNOW THAT MOST OF THE IMPORTANT DECISIONS ON THE NEW
CONSTITUTION WILL BE MADE BY THE AFM BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY MEETS,
THEY ARE KEENLY AWARE OF THE LEGITIMATIZING FORCE THEY WILL
ACQUIRE FROM A GOOD SHOWING IN PORTUGAL'S FIRST FREE ELECTIONS
IN ALMOST 50 YEARS.

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